**1351** Science: The Best and Worst of Times

**1355** Shakespeare and Statistics: O. Driver; G. Kolata ■ Mexican Seed Bank: D. C. Jewell; M. Sun ■ The Dot: Alternative Notation: M. Pearl ■ Black Holes—"Ingestars"?: W. A. Shurcliff

**1360** Engineering Crops to Resist Weed Killers ■ Calgene Breaks New Ground

**1362** Long-Range Forecasting: Truth or Consequences

**1363** McLean-AMI Agree on Joint Venture

**1364** Briefing: NIH Gets a Friendly Hearing on Capitol Hill ■ Congress Likely to Halt Shrinkage in AIDS Funds ■ Fletcher Nominated as New NASA Chief ■ Formaldehyde Poses Little Risk, Study Says

**1366** VEGA’s 1 and 2 Visit Halley

**1367** How Killer Cells Kill Their Targets

**1369** Weather Balloons at Venus

**1370** Testing Superposition in Quantum Mechanics ■ Delayed Choice Supports Quantum Theory

**1387** Cost of Space-Based Laser Ballistic Missile Defense: G. Field and D. Spergel

**1393** Rates of DNA Sequence Evolution Differ Between Taxonomic Groups: R. J. Britten

**1399** The 1985 Nobel Prize in Economics: P. A. Samuelson

**1401** Structure of Tobacco Mosaic Virus at 3.6 Å Resolution: Implications for Assembly: K. Namba and G. Stubbs

**1407** The VEGA Venus Balloon Experiment: R. Z. Sagdeev, V. M. Linkin, J. E. Blamont, R. A. Preston


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Cover: Test flight in Earth's atmosphere of balloon and gondola system similar to two placed in the atmosphere of Venus in June 1985 by the VEGA spacecraft. These were the first balloons to float in the atmosphere of another planet. Gondola instruments measured in situ meteorological parameters; a world-wide network of 20 ground-based antennas monitored the Venus winds by means of radio signals transmitted by the balloons. See pages 1407–1425.

[Photo: V. M. Linkin, Space Research Institute, Moscow, U.S.S.R.; emblem: R. A. Preston, Jet Propulsion Laboratory, California Institute of Technology, Pasadena, CA 91125]


1414 Determination of Venus Winds by Ground-Based Radio Tracking of the VEGA Balloons: R. A. Preston, C. E. Hildebrand, G. H. Purcell, Jr., J. Ellis, C. T. Stelzried, S. G. Finley, R. Z. Sagdeev, V. M. Linkin, V. V. Kerzhanovich, V. I. Altunin et al.


1420 Thermal Structure of the Venus Atmosphere in the Middle Cloud Layer: V. M. Linkin, V. V. Kerzhanovich, A. N. Lipatov, A. A. Shurupov, A. Seiff, B. Ragent, R. E. Young, A. P. Ingersoll, D. Crisp, L. S. Elson, R. A. Preston, J. E. Blamont

1422 Implications of the VEGA Balloon Results for Venus Atmospheric Dynamics: J. E. Blamont, R. E. Young, A. Seiff, B. Ragent, R. Sagdeev, V. M. Linkin, V. V. Kerzhanovich, A. P. Ingersoll, D. Crisp, L. S. Elson, R. A. Preston, G. S. Golitsyn, V. N. Ivanov

1425 Southern Hemisphere Origin of the Cretaceous Laytonville Limestone of California: J. A. Tarduno, M. McWilliams, W. V. Sliter, H. E. Cook, M. C. Blake, Jr., I. Premoli-Silva


1437 Two Elements in the Bovine Leukemia Virus Long Terminal Repeat That Regulate Gene Expression: D. Derse and J. W. Casey

Book Reviews

1451 Community Ecology, reviewed by R. M. May ■ Cognitive Learning and Memory in Children and Basic Processes in Memory Development, S. J. Ceci ■ Phanerozoic Earth History of Australia, J. K. Weissel ■ Books Received

Products & Materials

1455 Mass Spectrometer ■ Pocket Calculator with Display ■ Mantles ■ Chromatography System ■ Scanning Electron Microscope ■ Personal Computer ■ Literature

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